

Exodus 5

Read Exodus 5:1-20: One aspect of ministry and discipleship is spiritual warfare. Moses was trying to improve the lives of his people; and his involvement seemingly made things much worse! Instead of letting the people go, Pharaoh became angry with his slave community trying to get out of work. He had no knowledge or respect for the true God. That was about to change. He made their workload much more difficult; and the people complained that Moses was messing up an already bad situation. We can do what we want with our own lives, but when it impacts others, it becomes trickier. Many times, when a person receives the LORD all hell breaks loose with their family. Their family may be Muslim or Buddhists. There is a rift, a disconnection, or even harm that comes from the opposing world views held by their friends and family members.

³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ³⁶ and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10)

Pharaoh thought he was a god, and his entourage of yes-men and *pretend priests* and magicians continued to reinforce that belief. Moses shares that there will be a reckoning if God’s directions are not followed. The requested 3-days journey was adequate to get them out of Egypt, but not all of the way to Mt. Sinai. The point here is that this is before God gave the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. There was no sabbath rest. These people worked every day! God wants us to build margin into our lives for recovery and sabbath activities. This world will take our back breaking efforts and just require more still. We can literally be like a construction input to maximize any ungodly authority.

There is historical evidence of this dictate from Pharaoh to scavenge the sticks for brick reinforcement. You can look at the bricks made beforehand, that have uniform provided stubble mixed in, and afterwards it became a very diverse and random collection of roots and stems and weeds. The fatalistic view of unbelievers is: “No good deed goes unpunished”. We work for God, not men. That changes everything.